

# Montana and the Sky



Vol. 32, No. 3

MONTANA AERONAUTICS DIVISION

March, 1981

## Wokal Earns Chamber Award

Vic Wokal, a well-known Glasgow aviator, was honored for his years of service by being presented with the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce's "President's Award" at the annual chamber banquet on January 22.

It's not an understatement to say that Vic is dedicated to the vocation of flying. Since founding Wokal Flying Service in Bowman, N.D. with his brother Joe in 1944, countless students have gained the benefit of being

taught to fly by Vic and Joe Wokal.

Even while farming and working in the family-owned Wokal Auto Company, Vic's dream had always been to fly.

He finally scraped up enough money to take his first flying lesson on March 24, 1941 and after six hours of training soloed in a 1940 Aeronca Tandam "Franklin 60."

When Vic and Joe learned to fly there was no airport in Bowman. That changed in 1944 when they founded the first public use airport in Bowman. At the same time they started Wokal Flying Service where they trained pilots, operated a charter service and sprayed crops. Vic was also a prolific buyer and seller of airplanes. At various times he traded a plane for \$8,400 worth of chinchillas, a case of whiskey and a horse and buggy.

In 1962 Vic and Joe bought the air service business in Glasgow which had been operated by Wilbur Morton. Vic bought out his brother in the Glasgow business in 1968.

He also functioned as the airport manager when he bought the business. He managed Frontier Airlines at the Glasgow terminal from 1970-76.

The Aeronautics Division would like to congratulate Vic on his 40th year of flying and wish him many more.



Photo by Jay Ulku.

Vic Wokal, left, received the President's Award from Glasgow Chamber of Commerce President Bob Fjeldheim.

## New FAA APS

After working 1½ years in Portland, Maine as an operations inspector for the FAA, Mick Wilson moved to Billings in early February to function as the FAA Accident Prevention Specialist for Montana. He stated that he is looking forward to meeting the flying public in the state.

He has 20 years of experience as a charter operator and 15 years as a flight instructor in Loveland, Colorado. Mick said it was his desire to benefit and help the aviation industry; he felt the best way to do that was to assist through the FAA.

He will be working closely with the Safety and Education Bureau of the Aeronautics Division to coordinate and co-sponsor safety programs of interest to pilots in Montana.

We welcome Mick to Montana and look forward to working with him.



Mick Wilson, the New FAA Accident Prevention Specialist for Montana.



# Administrator's Column

Here's an update on the legislation concerning aviation:

HB 23 — Abolishment of the airplane pool. This bill has passed both the house and senate and was signed into law by the Governor on February 27. Control of the Aeronautics owned A36 Bonanza has been returned to the Aeronautics Division and in the near future \$38,000 in the A36 reserve account along with \$158,000 loan repayment made to the airplane pool should be deposited into the Aeronautics' earmarked revenue account. Strong involvement and lobbying by the aviation organizations influenced the passage of this bill.

HB 326 — City tax on aircraft. This bill was killed during second reading.

HB 525 — 90% of airline flight property tax on state owned airports to be deposited into a revolving account. As mentioned before this bill will only affect the Yellowstone Airport. It has passed through the house and is currently waiting for a hearing in the senate.

HB 540 — Aircraft registration date changed from 1 March to 1 June. This bill has passed through the house and is currently waiting for a hearing in the senate.

HB 548 — Increase in the aviation fuel tax by 1¢ to be deposited into a revolving account to be used solely for loans, grants and navigational aids. This bill is still in the house taxation committee with no report to date. Although this bill is sponsored by the Montana Pilots Association, the Montana Aviation Trades Association, the Montana Antique Aircraft Association, the Montana Flying Farmers and the Montana 99s, the major airlines have mounted a strong lobby effort against its passage.

HB 630 — Airline security at state owned airports. This bill would also affect only Yellowstone Airport. It will allow the Aeronautics Division to provide FAA required security officers. It has passed the house and is currently assigned to the Senate State Administration Committee with no hearing date set.

SB 12 — Sunset of earmarked revenue money. This bill will be a companion to the existing sunset law and will tie the Aeronautics Division's earmarked revenue account to the Aeronautics Board sunset review in 1983. This bill is in the taxation committee and has had no report to date.

SB 126 — Assessment of autos, trucks, aircraft, etc. This bill was heard in the taxation committee but has had no report out.

SB 148 — Exemption of privately owned public use airports from personal property tax. This bill was killed during second reading.

SB 284 — A bill to clarify the existing statute as to how much money a county can indebt itself without a vote of the people. Current laws have conflicting figures. This bill has passed the senate and has been assigned to the House Taxation Committee with no hearing date set.

SB 432 — A bill to create a new Department of Commerce. This bill will abolish the Department of Community Affairs. The Aeronautics Board and Division will transfer to the Department of Commerce. This bill has passed through the senate and has been assigned to the House State Administration Committee with no hearing date set.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

We have been advised that President Reagan intends on cutting the 406 subsidy to airlines around the nation. The only affect that this cut would have in Montana would possibly be the community of Kalispell. Both Republic Airlines and Frontier Airlines receive 406 subsidy from the federal government to provide service to that city. The remaining routes within the state will not be affected. The 419 subsidy program for commuter airlines would not be affected by this action.

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DEPARTMENT OF  
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Ted Schwinden, Governor  
Dave Wanzonried, Acting Director  
Martin T. Mangan, Deputy Director

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Phone 449-2506  
Box 5178  
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Michael D. Ferguson  
Administrator

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## Administrator's Column Continued

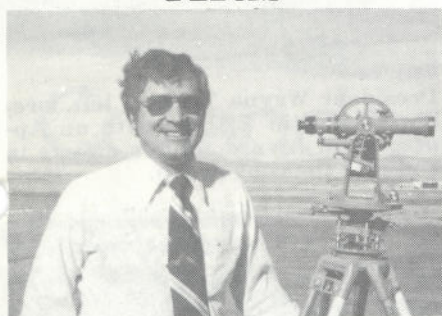
I attended the MATA Convention in Great Falls on January 29 to 31. Many pertinent and interesting topics affecting aviation were presented by several guest speakers. In spite of the adverse weather conditions the attendance was excellent and the convention was a success. Martin Elshire of Aerotronics II was the convention chairman and was assisted by Karen Lathrop, who is secretary for Aerotronics II and MATA.

It was a great honor to be able to present the first John Lynch Memorial Award to Lynch Flying Service. John Lynch's daughter Marieta and her husband Bob Palmersheim, General Manager of Lynch Flying Service, accepted the award on behalf of Lynch Flying Service.

During my many years as an operator in Billings I grew to know and respect John Lynch as one of the outstanding aviation businessmen in the Northwest. John was a true gentleman and I feel honored to have known him and to have had him for my friend.

I would like to congratulate Martin, Karen and all the others who were instrumental in providing a successful, well-planned convention.

## Navigational Aids



By: Jerry Burrows  
Aviation Representative

### Libby NDB

We finally received the FCC radio station license for Libby. The new 100 Watt solid state transmitter operating on 414 KHz with the identifier of LYI is now officially on the air.

Libby has also had a new unicom since last fall operating on 122.8 MHz which is located on the airport.

The Libby airport board, pilots and others are very enthusiastic about their airport and are presently developing plans to improve the runways, taxiways, etc.

### Instrument Approach Procedures — NDBs

We have asked the FAA in Denver to develop Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (SIAP) on the NDB's at Polson and Choteau and anticipate another 3 months before this is accomplished.

Eureka has nearly completed their requirements for an approach and the cities of Malta, Hamilton and Baker have expressed interest. We hope to eventually develop SIAP's on all our NDB's where possible.

### Unicom

A new King solid state unicom has been installed with the F.B.O. at Kalispell's Glacier Park International Airport. As soon as we receive approval from the FCC, we will change their frequency from 122.8 to 123.0 MHz to help avoid some of the confusion between the two airports in the Kalispell area. Another new King was installed at Red Lodge Airways at Red Lodge, Montana.

Conrad is another recipient of a King unicom which will be fitted with a remote speaker system within the next week or two.

This writer intends on visiting many NDB and unicom sites in the next several weeks and would be happy to visit with any of you during that time should you have any questions or problems.

We do have a variety of programs where we can financially assist communities with airport lighting, rotating beacons, windsock standards, radio controlled facilities, etc. We also have programs where we provide assistance with air-to-ground radios, navigational aids, engineering grants and airport improvement loans.



## Attn: Billings

The Billings Flight Service Station is pleased to announce another service available to pilots in the Billings and surrounding area; telephone availability for the Transcribed Weather Broadcast (TWEB). It is no longer necessary to own a low-frequency receiver to listen to the aviation weather broadcast. Just dial 245-9711.

A word of caution: The TWEB is not meant to provide a complete weather briefing. Please, for this service, continue to call the Billings FSS at 259-4545 or on the airport shortline, 58.

## Pilot Publications

The 1971 "Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge," FAA's basic training and reference manual for general aviation pilots, has been replaced with an expanded and modernized edition. The new handbook reflects many changes in regulations, flight procedures, and aircraft which have taken place in the last ten years.

Notably the chapter on aircraft performance has been enlarged to include detailed discussion of data provided in Aircraft Flight Manuals and operating handbooks. Complete sections on weather and navigation are included.

The 1980 handbook is available for \$11.00 from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Ask for FAA Advisory Circular 61.23B.



# Montana Aviation Trades Association Convention

The Montana Aviation Trades Association Convention took place on January 29 to 31 in Great Falls.

During the convention new officers and directors were elected. They are:

President—Wayne Turner,  
Big Sandy  
Vice President—Ed Obie, Jr.,  
Chinook  
Director—Gary Martin,  
Glasgow  
Director—Bill Tubbs,  
Hamilton  
Director—Bob Palmersheim,  
Billings  
Director—Pat Doyle,  
Turner  
Director—Andre Morris,  
Dillon  
Secretary—Karen Lathrop

We extend our congratulations to these officers and directors and look forward to working with them.

The MATA established a John Lynch Memorial Award this year in memory of the late John Lynch. This will be a traveling award presented annually to an outstanding fixed base operator or individual. The award will be presented on the basis of outstanding achievement in the aviation field during the current year. The 1981 award was presented by Mike Ferguson and Martin Elshire to Lynch Flying Service. Appropriately receiving the award for Lynch's was John Lynch's daughter, Mareita, and her husband Bob Palmersheim, general manager of Lynch's.

The MATA made arrangements to have three hours of ag operator recertification classes available to those operators wishing to participate. Norm Akesson of the Department of Agriculture Engineering, University of California and Pat Rardon of the Central Research Center both spoke at the recertification sessions.

Other speakers included Bob LaRue of the Department of Agriculture, Bob Paquin of Continental Engines, Jim Hamilton from the U.S. Forest Service, Ed Freeman, Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Bob Taylor and Lloyd Adams from the FAA FSDO in Helena and Billings respectively, and Mike Ferguson from the Montana Aeronautics Division.

Jack L. Davis from the Kalispell Diagnostic Services gave an excellent session on patient air transportation, touching on air ambulance techniques, better methods of transporting patients and operator, physician and patient relations.

Friday evening "Doc" Stich of Great Falls was the featured speaker at the banquet.

We congratulate Martin Elshire, Convention Chairman, and Karen Lathrop of Aerotronics II, for a job well done.



Martin knew who to give the credit to for the convention arrangements and showed his appreciation to Karen Lathrop.



President Wayne Turner, left, presented Martin Elshire with an Appreciation Award for his efforts in chairing the convention.



Left to right, Martin Elshire, Mike Ferguson, Mareita and Bob Palmersheim, during the presentation of the John Lynch Memorial Award.



During the MATA banquet on Friday night.





One of the highlights of the convention was keynote speaker Senator John Melcher. He spoke during a special luncheon meeting held on Friday afternoon.



During a break — static displays were provided by Aerotronics, Hughes Aviation Service, Narco Avionics, Van Dusen Air Supply, Monsanto and others.

## Calendar

**March 28 to 30** — AOPA Air Safety Foundation Flight Instructor Refresher Course, Billings. Contact AOPA Flight Instructor Department for details — (800) 638-0853.

**April 11** — 99s monthly meeting. Bozeman Air Terminal Restaurant, 11:00 a.m.

**June 8 to 17** — Bozeman Aerospace Teacher Workshop, Montana State University.

**June 12 to 14** — Montana Pilots Association Convention, Glasgow. Contact Doug Campbell in Glasgow for details, 228-4876.

**June 15 to July 3** — Butte Aerospace Teacher Workshop, Butte Tech.

**June 15 to 26** — Helena Aerospace Teacher Workshop, Carroll College.

**June 16 to 18, 23 to 25** — Great Falls Aerospace Teacher Workshop, College of Great Falls.

**June 18 to 20, 25 to 27** — Havre Aerospace Teacher Workshop, Northern Montana College.

**June 22 to July 3** — Billings Aerospace Teacher Workshop, Eastern Montana College.

**July 11** — Malmstrom Open House — Navy Blue Angels.

**July 15 to 17** — Western States Regional Search and Rescue Advisory Council meeting, Helena. More to come.

**July 18 & 19** — Schafer Meadows Fly-In.

**August 7 to 9** — Beacon Star Antique Airfield Fly-In. Sponsored by the Montana Antique Aircraft Association.

**August 17 to 23** — Aviation Appreciation Week. Sponsored by the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce/Aviation Committee. Contact Ken Brewer for details — 454-3473. More details to come.

**October 3** — Halloween Air Race, Great Falls to Jackpot.

**October 9 & 10** — Flying Farmers Convention, Yogo Inn, Lewistown.

## "Executive Express"

Effective March 5, Big Sky Airlines is offering flights to Billings and Helena in the early morning, allowing a full day for business, and return in time for dinner. The fare is \$44.00 one way and \$88.00 round trip.

Here's the schedule:

### Billings to Helena

Flight 21 — Departs 6:15 a.m. Arrives 7:10 a.m.

Flight 23 — Departs 5:30 p.m. Arrives 6:36 p.m.

### Helena to Billings

Flight 22 — Departs 7:25 a.m. Arrives 8:20 a.m.

Flight 24 — Departs 6:55 p.m. Arrives 7:45 p.m.

No advance ticket purchase is required. These fares are good only on the selected flights and will expire on April 25, 1981.

If you have any questions or want further details contact Big Sky Airlines at their toll free number — 800-332-7119.

## Pilot Aids

|                                               |        |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|
| Montana Aeronautics Chart                     | \$2.00 |
| Montana Airport Directory                     | \$2.00 |
| Annual Subscription to<br>Montana and the Sky | \$2.00 |



# Aviation Mechanics Refresher Seminar

The Montana Aeronautics Division hosted their annual Aviation Mechanics Refresher Seminar on February 17 to 19 in Helena at the Coach House East.

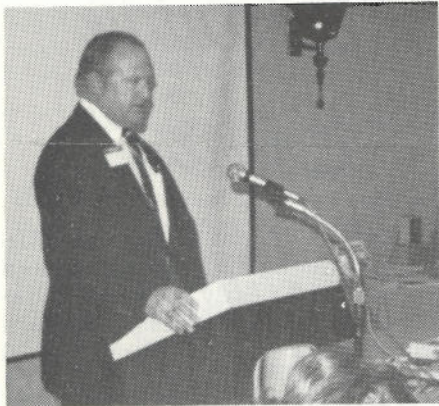
This year's program included presentations by companies such as Cherry Fasteners, Phillips Petroleum, Products Research, Semco and Cessna. The FAA also participated and recertified mechanics as a part of the seminar.

As in the past, the Aeronautics Division provided lodging for the first thirty eligible applicants.

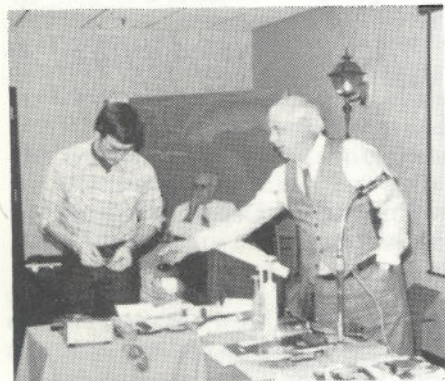
We also invited students currently enrolled in the airframe and powerplant program at the Helena Vocational-Technical Center to attend the seminar.



During the Aviation Mechanics Refresher Seminar. Approximately 60 people were in attendance.



Bill Kittrell, Phillips Petroleum, during the AMRS.



C. C. "Skip" Moline, right, and Glen Mettler, center, from PRC/Semco Corporation watch, while AMRS participant, Paul Yedinak, experimented with a new product.



Chris Haas, Hughes Aviation Services, provided a display for the AMRS.



Charles Kenyan, Cherry Fasteners, took a dull subject and made it interesting.



## Aircraft Removal Cart



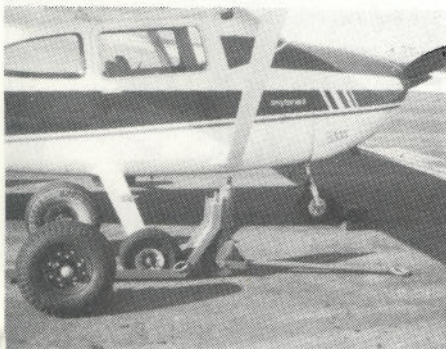
By: Ted Mathis  
Assistant Manager, Helena Airport

One section of Murphy's law of aviation states, "If a light aircraft is ever going to have a tire blow out, it will happen on landing on the main air carrier runway with a 727 on final behind it."

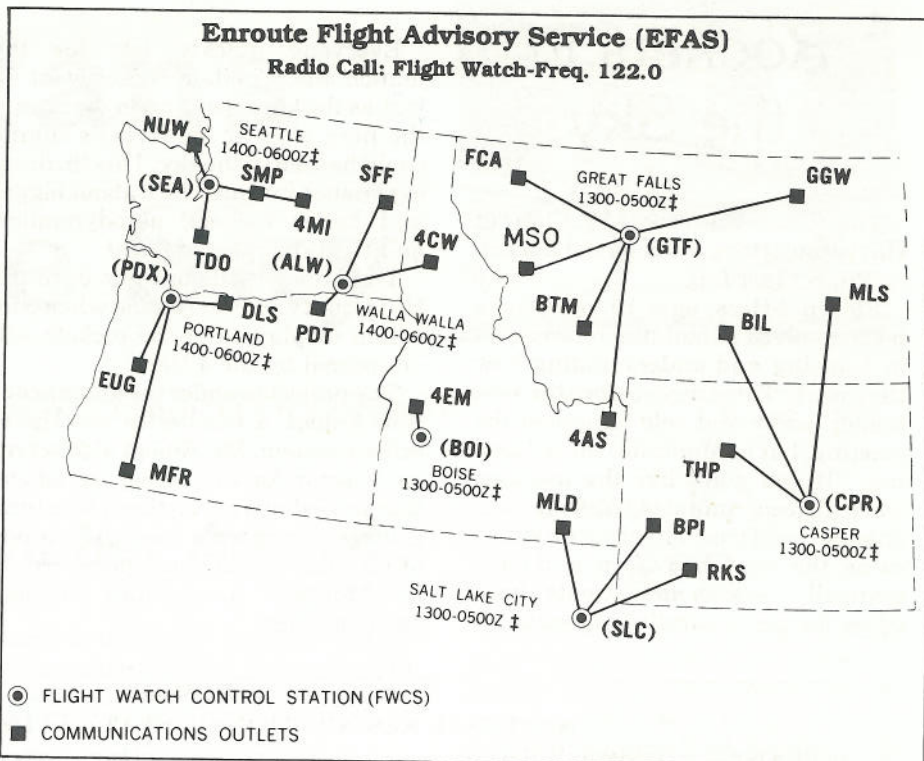
When this happens, the light aircraft must be moved as quickly as possible without causing further damage to the aircraft.

The Helena Airport maintenance department has designed and built a small three wheeled cart for this purpose. The rear wheels of the cart slide off to allow the carrier portion to set flat on the runway. The aircraft wheel may then be rolled or set in the carrier. By using the porta-power unit furnished with most fire trucks, the rear of the cart is raised and the large wheels slipped back in place. The aircraft may then be towed from the active runway.

The entire process takes only minutes.



Helena's aircraft removal cart.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

### FAA Certificates Issued Recently to Pilots

#### PRIVATE

Kenneth L. Ferestad, Scobey  
D. L. Edman, Roundup  
Bruce L. LeClaire, Billings  
Patsy Ann Maki, Billings  
Rockwell S. Wilson, Forsyth  
Mark A. Nobles, Billings  
Kathryn Ann Buckles, Billings  
Russel C. Noennig, Billings  
Sandra C. MacLachlan, Big Fork  
Bryon Schreckendgust, Hamilton  
Patrick D. O'Neill, Basin  
George W. Clark, Kalispell  
Joseph C. Johnson II, Bozeman  
Jerry D. Consioroski, Huson  
Thomas M. Campbell, Helena  
Kenneth L. Moncur, Lewistown  
James C. Shortridge, Great Falls  
Robert L. Williams, Big Sandy  
Randy R. Williams, Big Sandy

#### INSTRUCTOR

Richard A. Danylieko, Billings  
(Ground)  
Herbert R. Hawk, Billings  
Guy D. Jensen, Dagmar

Dennis R. Skovgaard, Billings  
(Renew)  
Rich A. Bjelkevig, Billings (Renew)  
Robert E. Fischer, Jr., Billings  
John A. Nehring, Bozeman  
(Renew)  
Claude R. Parks, Jr., Butte (Renew)  
Howard J. Stephens, Great Falls  
(Ground)

#### COMMERCIAL

Paul R. Schultz, Billings  
Robert E. Fischer, Jr., Billings  
Michael C. Palmer, Great Falls  
Grant M. Tarpinian, Malmstrom  
AFB (Heli)  
Boyd J. Morgan, Belgrade

#### INSTRUMENT

Lewis H. Roberts, Billings  
(Commercial)  
Thelma A. Bullinger, Billings (CFI)  
Melvin A. Barber, Billings  
(Private)

David M. Tousey, Marion  
Darrel Smith, Bozeman  
Grant M. Tarpinian, Malmstrom  
AFB (Heli)

#### MULTI ENGINE

David W. Ferris, Dillon  
(Commercial)  
Patrick E. Dvarishkis, Glendive  
(CFI)



# Rockets in the Sky

The Blue Horizon 4-H Club of Havre undertook a 4-H Model Rocketry Project last fall.

Eleven 4-Hers, ages 10 to 13, have been involved in building rockets and in learning and understanding how they work. Three days before the first launch snow and cold cancelled the meeting; but in Montana, the old saying, "If you don't like the weather, wait fifteen minutes and it will change" held true. The chinook winds came, the wind died down, and automatically the kids and parents showed up for the "cancelled" meeting.

Everyone quickly left for the launch site. The last rocket went up just as darkness was upon them, and the fiery glow of the rocket's engine could be seen in the sky. This thrilling experience initiated talk about bigger and better rockets, aerodynamics, and the principles of flight.

The project will continue until the Hill County Fair in August when education displays and the rockets will be entered by the 4-Hers.

The project is under the guidance of Ron Kologi, a teacher in the Havre school system. Mr. Kologi also serves as director for the aerospace education workshops at Northern Montana College. Northern's workshop is one of six state workshops sponsored by the Montana Aeronautics Division each summer.

**A Flight Instructor's Credo**  
*Lord, he will walk in my image and as I have taught him,  
Therefore, let me not make the small, careless mistakes, but help me to show him that the right way is the safe way, so he will fly again tomorrow.  
If I may, Lord, pray a lot, scold a bit, cuss a mite, so he can fly safely all his life.*

(Courtesy of Mr. George Holey)

2,500 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$.18 per copy, for a total cost of \$447.17, which included \$230.00 for printing and \$217.17 for distribution.

## MEMBER

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AVIATION OFFICIALS

**PURPOSE—** "To foster aviation, as an industry, as a mode of transportation for persons and property and as an arm of the national defense; to join with the Federal Government and other groups in research, development, and advancement of aviation; to develop uniform laws and regulations; and to otherwise encourage cooperation and mutual aid among the several states."

March, 1981



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